

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

EB-11 DRC-01 /149 W

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P R 091144Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0336

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02185

E.O. LL652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ER, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: FRG-GDR DISCUSSIONS OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC
DIFFICULTIES

REF: BONN 2172

1. SUMMARY: FRG AND GDR DELEGATIONS, LED BY GAUS AND NIER RESPECTIVELY, MET IN EAST BERLIN FEBRUARY 7 TO DISCUSS BILATERAL MATTERS, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSIONS (THIS ASPECT REPORTED IN SEPTEL). GAUS NATURALLY TOOK THE OCCASION TO RAISE THE RECENT BERLIN TRANSIT TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH NIER PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE FORMAL DELEGATION TALKS. GAUS REPORTEDLY SPOKE SHARPLY AND FRANKLY TO NIER AND NIER SEEMED TO WISH TO PLAY THE PROBLEM DOWN. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO FRG CHANCELLERY SOURCE, GAUS TOOK A VERY HARD LINE WITH NIER, ASSERTING THAT THE GDR
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EXPLANATION OF THE JANUARY 25-26 TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES,

I.E., A SEARCH FOR CRIMINALS, WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

THIS SORT OF SEARCH INVOLVING TRANSIT TRAFFIC WAS NOT
OVIDEDFOR IN THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT OR QUADRI-
PARTITE AGREEMENT.

3. GAUS THEN ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF OTHER TRAFFIC
DIFFICULTIES THAT REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE ON THE TRANSIT
ROUTES IN THE FIRST DAYS OF FEBRUARY. NIER SAID THAT
HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY ABOUT THE JANUARY 25-26
CHECKS AND THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUBSEQUENT CON-
TROLS. HE SUGGESTED THE MATTER WAS NOW BEST LEFT TO
THE APPROPRIATE CHANNEL FOR DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS,
I.E., THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC COMMISSION, DUE TO MEET ON
FEBRUARY 14.

4. OUR CHANCELLERY SOURCE SAID THAT GAUS TOOK A VERY
FIRM POSITION WITH NIER IN THE MEETING BUT AGAIN
AVOIDED PLAYING THE TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES UP IN
REPLYING TO PRESS QUERIES. (THIS WAS GAUS'S APPROACH
FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S TALKS AS WELL.) GAUS REPORTEDLY
SEES NO POINT IN MAKING A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION OUT OF
THE ISSUE SINCE THIS WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR BOTH
SIDES. THE FRG SIDE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT NIER TOO
WISHED TO DAMP DOWN THE HEAT THAT HAD BEEN CREATED
IN THE FRG OVER THE RECENT DIFFICULTIES.

5. FRG CHANCELLERY MINISTER BAHR TOOK A SOMEWHAT
SIMILAR LINE IN A WEST GERMAN TV INTERVIEW FEBRUARY 8.
HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE GDR EX-
PLANATION OF THE JANUARY 25-26 EVENTS BUT STILL
CONSIDERED THE GDR ACTIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE
TRANSIT TRAFFIC AND BERLIN AGREEMENTS. (COMMENT: WE
UNDERSTAND BAHR SLIPPED WHEN SAYING THE FRG "ACCEPTED"
THE EXPLANATION: HE MEANT TO SAY THE FRG HAD NOTED IT.
A STRANGE SLIP FOR SO SEASONED A NEGOTIATOR.)

6. MEANWHILE, THE SOVIETS IN BONN CONTINUE TO KEEP UP
THE PRESSURE ON THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY (FEA).
A SOVIET JOURNALIST COMMENTED TO A RELIABLE FRG SOURCE
THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE TO USE ALL
POSSIBILITIES TO PRESS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BACK
DOWN ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEA IN WEST BERLIN.
THE JOURNALIST SAID THAT IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
REFUSED TO GET THE POINT, THEN PERHAPS A FOUR-POWER
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CONSULTATION TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD
RESULT MIGHT BE NECESSARY.

HILLENBRAND

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